

THE STATUS OF *RATITIPHAGUS BATOCINA* EICHLER
(MALLOPHAGA: MENOPONIDAE)

Eichler (1949, Boll. Soc. Ent. Ital. 79: 11–13) erected the new genus *Ratitiphagus* and included in it the single new species, *R. batocina*. The description was based only on the female, presumably taken from a specimen of *Pterocnemia pennata pennata* (d'Orbigny) (Order Rheiformes). Hopkins and Clay (1952, A Check List of the Genera & Species of Mallophaga, London, 362 pp.), in reference to this, stated: "There is no generic description and the description of the type-species is so grossly inadequate that we are unable to form a useful opinion as to whether the genus is good or not, especially as it is extremely probable that the occurrence . . . on the alleged host was due to contamination." They suggest, without availability of material for study, that *Ratitiphagus* is probably a synonym of *Colpocephalum*.

I have recently been able to borrow 2 paratype ♀♀ (WEC slides 1179q and 1179r) of *R. batocina* from the Zoologisches Staatsinstitut und Zoologisches Museum, Hamburg; these specimens are from the type-host with collection data: Punta Arenas, Magalhaenstrasse [Chile], 23 April 1912. While they are not of optimal quality, they apparently possess no features significantly differing from those of ♀♀ of *Colpocephalum trispinum* Piaget as described by Price and Beer (1965, Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer. 58: 111–131). I see no reason, on the basis of available material, for not considering *R. batocina* a junior synonym of *C. trispinum*, whose type-host is a member of the Neotropical Ciconiiformes. This undoubtedly is an instance of contamination of the rheiform host, thus leading to the incorrect assumption by Eichler that he was dealing with a uniquely new louse from *P. pennata*.—ROGER D. PRICE, Department of Entomology, Fisheries, and Wildlife, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

PTILINUS FRIENDI, A NOMEN NUDUM
(COLEOPTERA: ANOBIIDAE)

The name *Ptilinus friendi* has appeared in print in Dissertation Abstracts in the abstract of John B. Simeone's thesis for the Ph.D. degree (1961, volume 21, number 7) and in the Canadian Entomologist (1961, volume 93, number 6, p. 428). In the first reference above the name is given as having been proposed in the thesis for a species described as new; in the second reference the name is cited as a synonym of *P. pectinicornis* (L.). Neither of these literature citations serve to validate the name. *Ptilinus friendi* has thus never been validly proposed and is not to be accepted into our nomenclature.—RICHARD E. WHITE, Entomology Research Division, ARS, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.